

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

Sunday, March 13th, 2011

...2011 Severe Weather Awareness Week for Nebraska...

Monday, March 14th, through Friday, March 18th, has been designated as Severe Weather Awareness Week for the state of Nebraska. This week provides the National Weather Service with an opportunity to test communication systems and to get potentially lifesaving information to the public.

Now is the time for everyone to review their safety plans and be prepared for the severe weather season.

Before severe weather strikes, develop a plan of action. Identify a place for you and your family to take shelter in the event of severe weather. Once you have a plan of action, conduct frequent drills to ensure everyone knows what to do at all times. Make sure you know what to do if you are at home, work, school, or outdoors, when severe weather strikes.

Each day during Severe Weather Awareness Week, the National Weather Service in Hastings will cover severe weather topics and have this information available on our webpage as well as on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.

Topics which will be covered include...

Severe Weather Terminology

Thunderstorms

Tornadoes

Lightning

Flooding

Safety Tips

If no severe weather is occurring or expected, the National Weather Service in Hastings will be conducting a Tornado Drill on **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16th, between 10 & 11 a.m. CDT**. The purpose of this drill is to ensure that Nebraskans can adequately receive a Tornado Warning and can practice any actions that would be taken in the event of a real tornado. The test warning will be sent through all communication channels normally used for severe weather dissemination.

Anytime the threat for severe weather exists, stay updated on the latest weather information by going to the National Weather Service Website, <http://www.weather.gov>, or by tuning in to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, or your local television and radio station. Make sure to watch for signs for approaching storms, such as darkening skies, increasing winds, flashes of lightning, and thunder.

More information about Severe Weather Awareness Week can be found at:

<http://www.weather.gov/hastings>.